

Washington, DC - To assist the Marbletown Fire Department with the purchase of a new tanker truck, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced a \$152,000 federal grant provided through the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program (AFG). The grant is administered by the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"The firefighters at the Marbletown Fire Department put their lives on the line to protect their community," said Hinchey. "They deserve to have the very best equipment to ensure they are able to protect themselves and save the lives of others when called into dangerous situations. This grant will help the department purchase a new tanker truck, which will allow for the transportation of large amounts of water to rural areas where access to fire hydrants is limited. The grant also prevents the need for local taxpayers to shoulder the expense of the vehicle through property taxes. I will continue doing everything I can to ensure that fire departments in New York and throughout the country have access to the equipment they need to rescue those in harm's way."

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, since its inception in 2001. More than \$18 million in grants have been awarded to fire and emergency departments in Hinchey's congressional district.

Hinchey is also the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations. The congressman has sponsored a number of workshops across his congressional district in the past to help fire departments successfully navigate the grant application process. For the most current information regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, please visit www.firegrantsupport.com.